

WILLIAM HOFFMAN.

DECEMBER 29, 1831.

Mr. CARR, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following  
**REPORT:**

*The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of William Hoffman, make the following report:*

That the petitioner was a citizen of the United States, previous to the late war between the United States and Great Britain; that at the time war was declared, he was a resident in Upper Canada; that, during the war, he left Canada, and enlisted in the service of the United States, in the corps of Canadian volunteers, in the month of May, 1814, and served as a soldier faithfully during the war, when he was honorably discharged; that he was entitled to bounty land under an act of Congress of March the 5th, 1816, entitled "an act granting bounty in land, and extra pay, to certain Canadian volunteers;" that he presented his claim to the War Department, accompanied by all the evidence required by said act, in the year 1816. The decision on his claim was delayed by the department without any fault or cause of delay on the part of the petitioner, till the 25th of September, 1817, (after the act of 3d of March, 1817, was passed, reducing the quantity of bounty land to private soldiers to 160 acres,) when a warrant was issued in his name for 160 acres. He has never recovered any more bounty land. As the petitioner presented his claim, and all the evidence required by the act of 5th of March, 1816, to the department, before the passage of the act of the 3d of March, 1817, it is the opinion of the officer having the charge of the Bounty Land Office, as well as of this committee, that the petitioner was legally entitled to the quantity of land given by the act of 5th of March, 1816. As the petitioner employed an agent to get his warrant, he was not aware that a warrant had issued for only 160 acres, till after the 3d of March, 1818, when the law expired, from which time the department has had no authority to act in this matter.

The committee are of opinion that the petitioner has a legal and equitable right to the quantity of land prayed for, and report a bill for his relief.

